08-09

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Table of Contents

Letter of Transmittal – Minister **3**

Letter of Transmittal – Deputy Minister **5**

Introduction **6**

Alignment with Government's Direction **6**

Ministry Overview **7**

Progress in 2008-09 ..... **11**

Significant Achievements in 2008-09 11
Progress by Key Program Theme 12

- Safer, More Secure Communities 12
- Improved Quality of Life for Saskatchewan People 17
- Legal and Policy Services 22

Financial Overview 2008-09 ..... **25**

2008-09 Financial Results – Expenditures 26
2008-09 Financial Results – Revenues 28

For More Information **29**

Appendices

Appendix A: Organizational Chart 30
Appendix B: Boards and Commissions 31
Appendix C: Revolving Funds 36
Appendix D: Key Contact Information 46

This annual report is also available in electronic format from the Ministry's website at **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**

Letter of Transmittal – Minister

The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

Our province is strong and prosperous, offering growth and stability for current and future generations. Justice, fairness and accountability are key components in the government's vision of a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth while providing ongoing opportunity for a high quality of life for all Saskatchewan citizens.

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to delivering and building on its promises to Saskatchewan people. In its first year, this Government made commitments in the election platform, the fall 2008 Speech from the Throne, the Ministers' Mandate letters, and the 2008-09 Budget Summary.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is equally committed to accountability in delivering on our commitments. We have aligned with the Government's direction and developed strategies and actions to help deliver on the Government's plan for Saskatchewan – to be *Strong and Steady* in the years to come.

In accord with the Government's goals, the Ministry is committed to ensuring safer communities in which the people of the province can work, play and prosper. To this end, we are working with other ministries, other levels of government, policing services, the judiciary, community-based organizations and individuals to protect residents from crime, uphold justice and safeguard basic legal rights.

Providing access to justice services is a top priority for our government. Equality, fairness and timely resolution of matters are essential in an effective justice system. We are increasing the accessibility of justice services, improving infrastructure, strengthening court security, and helping protect Saskatchewan investors. In addition, we are supporting alternative measures, crime prevention programs, and providing a range of services to meet the needs of victims. To help meet the challenges inherent in growth and improve public confidence in the justice system, we are reviewing, evaluating and updating Ministry programs.

This report communicates our progress to the Legislature and to the Saskatchewan people. Initiatives pursued in 2008-09, and the results achieved within this Government's first year, provide a foundation for establishing priorities and influencing Government's future activities. Therefore, this annual report is an important measure of accountability that can help inform future planning and resource allocation in the upcoming years.

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

D R Morgan

Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Letter of Transmittal – Deputy Minister

The Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Dear Sir:

As Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General, I acknowledge the responsibility of my office for the accuracy and reliability of the information that is contained in the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Annual Report for 2008-09.

In recognition of its accountability to the Legislature and to the Saskatchewan people for the information contained in this report, the Ministry has taken every reasonable step to follow good governance practices in compiling and relaying the information contained in the report.

Any significant caveats or limitations in the supporting information that might reasonably influence the judgment of readers will be reported in the applicable section of the report.

Where information could be subject to interpretation embedded in the reporting, such interpretation reflects the best judgment of the reporting unit's leader.

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

Gerald Tegart
Deputy Minister of Justice and
Deputy Attorney General

Introduction

The 2008-09 Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provides an overview of the Ministry's activities and results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

Reporting progress on public commitments and other key accomplishments of the Ministry during this transition year, and including the Government's vision and three goals, this report follows a format similar to that of the 2007-08 Annual Report.

The 2008-09 Annual Report and the 2009-10 Ministry Plan set the stage for the 2010-11 planning and budget process. By assessing accomplishments, results and lessons learned, it helps Government identify and build on past successes for the benefit of Saskatchewan people.

Alignment with Government's Direction

Work undertaken by the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General in 2008-09 aligned with the Government's vision for Saskatchewan and the three goals – growth, security and promises kept.

Our Government's Vision

A secure and prosperous Saskatchewan, leading the country in economic and population growth, while providing a high quality of life for all.

Government's Goals

- Sustain Economic Growth for the benefit of Saskatchewan people, ensuring the economy is ready for growth and positioning Saskatchewan to meet the challenges of economic and population growth and development.
- Secure Saskatchewan as a safe place to live and raise a family where people are confident in their future, ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit from the growing economy.
- Keep Government's Promises and fulfill the commitments of the election, operating with integrity and transparency, accountable to the people of Saskatchewan.

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General supports the achievement of Government's three goals by working toward reducing crime and improving public confidence in the justice system, providing legal and personal assistance to those most vulnerable in society, enhancing the infrastructure and improving efficiency of the criminal justice system, increasing protections for investors and consumers, delivering on public commitments, and working with other ministries and agencies toward the prospect of a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General provides legal services and justice policy advice to government in order to protect the legal rights of citizens and to promote social and economic order for Saskatchewan. The Ministry provides support for the courts, prosecutions, victims, civil law services and regulating the marketplace. The Ministry also provides services to resolve social and family conflict.

Ministry employees work with other ministries, governments and community partners to achieve the Ministry's goals. They administer and deliver justice and perform other justice roles, such as producing legal documents and helping resolve disputes. They also work to protect basic legal rights and relationships. The Ministry's Full-time Equivalent (FTE) budget was 909.0 FTEs, with actual FTE utilization of 942.5, which was 33.5 FTEs over budget. This reflects the additional staff required to address workload pressures in Courts and Public Prosecutions.

Ministry activities are organized into six main divisions: Community Justice, Public Prosecutions, Courts and Civil Justice, Civil Law, Public Law and Regulatory Services. A brief description of each of these areas is provided below.

The Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch supports the Minister and all divisions in the Ministry in corporate, federal/provincial and inter-agency policy and justice relations. Its focus is criminal law policy, family law policy, youth justice policy and Aboriginal policy. It helps bring about criminal, youth and family justice legislative changes and initiatives. The Branch also helps with program review. It evaluates ministerial programs or initiatives, performs statistical analysis and research on behalf of the Ministry and supports activities that help the Ministry gauge how well it is doing.

The Corporate Services Branch supports the Minister and all divisions in the Ministry by providing financial, managerial, and administrative support to senior management and operational areas of the Ministry.

The ministries of Justice and Attorney General and Corrections, Public Safety and Policing (CPSP) share the services of Communications, Corporate Services, and Information Management Services.

Community Justice Division

The Community Justice Division includes the Office of the Chief Coroner, Community Services, Victims Services, and Aboriginal and Northern Justice Initiatives. It provides a range of services to meet the needs of victims, including alternative measures and crime prevention programs that respond to the needs of communities for increased safety and greater involvement in justice services. It supports the development and delivery of community-based justice initiatives, coordinates Aboriginal and northern justice initiatives and funds the Aboriginal Courtworker Program.

The Division is also home to a unique set of Aboriginal programs. These programs are made possible by funding new partnerships with Aboriginal groups and the federal government. They respect Aboriginal values and traditions and provide employment opportunities for Aboriginal peoples.

Public Prosecutions Division

The Public Prosecutions Division represents the interests of the general public in the criminal justice system. It provides legal advice to Government and many law enforcement agencies. Prosecutors assess investigation results to decide if there is enough evidence to prosecute a violation of the law and whether the public interest in that prosecution justifies the outlay of public funds. Public Prosecutions Division also has a large role in training law enforcement officials, such as police.

Courts and Civil Justice Division

The Courts and Civil Justice Division provides judicial and operational support to the court system. This Division produces transcripts and provides enforcement services for legal judgments through the Sheriff's Office. It offers maintenance enforcement and other family justice services to help parents and children deal with the difficulties of family breakdown. The Division licenses Commissioners for Oaths, Notaries Public and Marriage Commissioners. It also provides services to help resolve disputes outside the court system.

Civil Law Division

The Civil Law Division provides legal services to the ministries, agencies, boards and commissions of the Government of Saskatchewan.

Public Law Division

The Public Law Division provides legal services to Government. These services include advice on Aboriginal, trade law and constitutional matters, and legal, policy and technical advice about legislation. This Division publishes and distributes legislation, regulations and other government publications through the Queen's Printer.

Regulatory Services Division

The Regulatory Services Division provides administrative services to senior management and operational areas of the Ministry. It does this through the Information Management Branch, which is shared with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing. It also provides these support services to a number of independent boards and commissions assigned to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

The Consumer Protection Branch grants licences, regulates market conduct, investigates complaints, answers inquiries and oversees the regulation of the death services industry through an industry self-regulatory body. This Branch's main activity is to provide information and direction to the public and businesses about problems encountered in the marketplace. It also acts directly for members of the public who are unable to protect themselves.

Regulatory Services Division is also responsible for a number of branches. The Access and Privacy Branch helps improve the management of public access to government records. It also supports government efforts to improve privacy protection. The Corporations Branch supports economic well-being by providing corporate registry programs. The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee protects the interests of people who are not able to manage their own financial affairs.

Key Partners

To achieve our major commitments, we need the participation of our key partners. These partners include federal, municipal, and First Nations and Métis governments. Collaboration with the federal government is essential, particularly with respect to criminal justice and sentencing reform. Partnership with the federal government is also essential in matters concerning First Nations peoples, and in cost-sharing or contribution agreements. Our relationship with other justice partners and human services ministries and agencies is also crucial in developing a collaborative approach to dealing with crime, its underlying causes and the legal service needs of individuals.

The following table outlines the main functions of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General and lists the partners required to ensure that we achieve our key commitments.

Main Functions of Ministry of Justice and Attorney General	Partners Required to Achieve Key Commitments
Administration and delivery of justice	
• Prosecuting offences under the *Criminal Code*, the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, and provincial statutes • Providing civil legal services to government • Operating the Provincial Court, Court of Queen's Bench, and Court of Appeal (except for the appointment of superior court judges) • Recognizing and responding to the needs of victims of crime	• Judiciary • Federal Department of Justice • Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing • Police Services • Provincial/territorial Justice ministries and agencies • Defence bar, including Legal Aid • Community justice agencies, including Aboriginal service delivery agencies • Aboriginal courtworkers • Municipal and First Nations and Métis authorities involved in justice issues
Protection of basic legal rights and relationships	
• Protecting and managing the estates of dependent adults or minors through the Public Guardian and Trustee • Operating the provincial coroners system • Registering and/or licensing all corporations and entities that conduct business in the province • Enforcing maintenance orders • Regulating consumer and marketplace relations	• Private bar • Police • Business organizations • Federal/provincial/territorial authorities exercising similar responsibilities
Other Justice functions	
• Developing alternative mechanisms to resolve disputes outside the courts through legislated initiatives and education • Administering *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* • Providing legal publications through the Queen's Printer Revolving Fund • Operating the Marriage Unit • Supporting access to public records and privacy protection	• Consumer organizations • Police • Mediation, arbitration and collaborative law organizations • Federal/provincial/territorial authorities exercising similar responsibilities

In Summary

Together, the divisions of the Ministry work with stakeholders and partners to ensure that the justice system:

- provides criminal court structure and enforces criminal law (*Criminal Code, Youth Criminal Justice Act* and provincial statutes) effectively. This includes the need to be tough on serious and violent crime and repeat offenders and to take an integrated approach to dealing with the underlying causes of crime and re-offending;

- provides effective mechanisms for resolving social conflict. This helps ensure that people do not turn to destructive ways of dealing with their issues that may undermine the safety and security of Saskatchewan people and communities;

- responds to the legal needs of people, particularly those in vulnerable circumstances and those involved in family disputes;

- plays a key regulatory function in the marketplace. This safeguards business, consumer and public interests and supports a growing economy; and

- provides legal and policy services to Government. This includes serving as the Government's official legal advisor and representing the Government before courts and tribunals. It also includes advising ministries and agencies about legislative proposals and drafting all legislative instruments.

Progress in 2008-09

The report on results in 2008-09 is provided below, organized by key program areas and followed by a report on actual progress for each. The results in this section support the achievement of Government's goals identified in the previous *Alignment with Government's Direction* section.

Significant Achievements in 2008-09

This section of the report provides results on key commitments in 2008-09. The actions are related to the strategic priorities of the Government – growth, security and promises.

- The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, working with its partners, passed *The Seizure of Criminal Property Act, 2008.* This Act strengthens legislation and enforcement to allow the provincial government and police forces to seize assets that are used to commit crimes, that are proceeds of crime, or that pose a threat to public safety. This Act will be implemented in 2009-10.

- The Ministry continues working with the federal government to implement tougher sentences for serious crimes, crimes that involve use of a firearm and repeat dangerous offenders.

  One such initiative is the federal *Tackling Violent Crime Act* that came into force in two stages, on May 1, 2008 and July 2, 2008. This Act creates two new firearm offences, provides escalating mandatory sentences for serious firearm offences, and reverses the onus on those seeking bail when accused of serious firearm offences. It also introduces a new process for the detection and investigation of drug-impaired driving and increases the penalties for impaired driving. In addition, this Act makes it easier to have someone declared a dangerous offender and it increases the age of consent for sexual activity from 14 to 16 years.

  In March 2009, the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice of Canada, introduced *Criminal Code* amendments restricting credit for time served. The proposed amendments would provide the courts with sentencing guidance and limits for granting credit for time served.

- The Ministry continues to encourage the federal government to toughen sentences for sexual offenders who commit crimes against children, home invasions, and crimes of violence against a police officer.

  In September 2008, the Minister of Justice met with his federal, provincial and territorial counterparts in Quebec City concerning Internet child pornography, missing persons, legal aid and the *Youth Criminal Justice Act.* Minister Morgan joined other ministers in calling for new federal legislation that required mandatory reporting of suspected Internet child pornography. He also drew attention to the issue of missing persons, particularly to the number of Aboriginal women who have been reported missing in Saskatchewan and elsewhere in Canada.

  The ministers considered the development of a national investigative database and a public information-sharing website to assist in the search for missing people and to better respond when people go missing. Minister Morgan advocated for the need to ensure adequate federal funding for legal aid, strengthening the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* to respond better to serious and repeat young offenders, and amending the *Criminal Code* to limit the ability to give credit for time served when determining the sentence of an offender.

- Effective July 1, 2008, the Victim Surcharge increased by $10 for any fine under $500 and by 10 per cent for any fine over $500. The Victim Surcharge for a fine over $500 is now 40 per cent of the imposed amount. Surcharge revenue increased by $800,000 in 2008-09, in part as a result of this increase. This ensures the stability of the Victims' Fund and the many programs and services that it provides to victims of crime.

- The Ministry's Fine Collection Branch partnered with the Canada Revenue Agency to garnish federal government income tax refunds and GST credits from people who have not paid their fines. This applies to all unpaid fines laid under provincial statutes that are payable to the province.

- Victims Services Branch supported two Justice Canada research projects conducted in Saskatchewan. The first project was research into federal victim surcharge practices. The second was the Restitution in Saskatchewan research project. The federal report will be final in 2009-10. The resulting data will be used in planning improvements to the Saskatchewan Restitution Program and beginning development of an automated information management system.

- To establish fixed election dates, *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council (Fixed Election Dates) Amendment Act, 2007* received Royal Assent on April 28, 2008.

  Amendments provide that unless a general election has been held earlier because of dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, the first general election must be held on Monday, November 7, 2011. Subsequent general elections must be held on the first Monday of November in the fourth calendar year after the last general election. The Crown retains the power to prorogue or dissolve the Legislative Assembly.

Progress by Key Program Theme

In this section, the Ministry describes its progress on key commitments and action items worked on in 2008-09. We have grouped these commitments under the following broad themes:

- Safer, More Secure Communities
- Improved Quality of Life for Saskatchewan People
- Legal and Policy Services

The Ministry is generally satisfied with progress made to date on our key commitments.

Safer, More Secure Communities

The theme of safer, more secure communities is related to key commitments of the divisions and branches in the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, specifically Public Prosecutions, Court Services, the Office of the Chief Coroner and Victims Services.

Saskatchewan people want their families, their homes, and their communities to be safe and secure. The Ministry has a balanced, multi-year criminal justice strategy for building safer communities and overall public confidence in the criminal justice system through targeted interventions and improved efficiency. This includes initiatives in the areas of prosecutions, law enforcement, victims services, court services, criminal law reform, legal aid and crime prevention.

This approach recognizes the need for a continuum of justice services with an increased emphasis on community-based services, including responsibility for local delivery, crime prevention, holistic treatment of offenders and victims in family violence situations, and involvement of victims in the criminal justice process.

Holding offenders accountable for their actions is a critical component of community safety. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, together with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing, continues working to ensure offender accountability through custodial sentences and community supervision orders, financial commitments, and community justice programs, such as alternative measures. Justice and Attorney General is also working to improve performance in fine collection.

The Ministry supports timely and appropriate responses to the needs of victims of crime. It effectively manages the Victims' Fund to maximize funding for programs and services. It provides basic crisis intervention services immediately following a crime or traumatic event, with special emphasis on those more vulnerable to victimization, such as children, victims of violent crime, Aboriginal peoples and persons with disabilities. It also provides financial compensation and support services to help victims through the criminal justice process and assists victims in having a greater voice in the process. As well, it educates the public and justice professionals about the needs of victims and how to respond in a helpful and empathetic manner.

Results

Reduce crime

- Public Prosecutions began work on some of the recommendations contained in the Prosecutions Efficiency Review. This will be an ongoing process that will take place over a number of years.

- With CPSP and other partners, the Ministry hosted a provincial workshop on organized crime and gangs, to help develop government, community and Aboriginal responses to organized crime through information sharing, collaboration, and building support for targeted approaches. It was held in Regina, February 12 and 13, 2009, and was well attended.

  The ministries committed to holding discussions with any community interested in advancing an effective, collaborative response to organized crime and gang violence. A summary report of the proceedings was distributed to workshop attendees, invitees and other interested parties.

- Court Services worked with the Ministry of Government Services and the Ministry of Finance, and developed a five-year plan to improve court facilities throughout the province. $2.8 million in new Courts Capital funding was budgeted to expand video-conferencing capabilities and to support planning a new courthouse for La Ronge and an addition to the Saskatoon courthouse (2008-09 Budget Summary).

  In addition to the 2008-09 budget items, the following priorities were identified in the five-year plan:

  - funding for construction of a new Meadow Lake courthouse;

  - continued improvement of provincial court circuit points. In particular, completion of tenant improvements to prisoner holding cells in Tisdale and Kamsack, and completion of design work for a prisoner's holding area in Swift Current; and

  - completion of perimeter airport-style security screening projects in the Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina provincial courthouses.

  Court Services continued with the expansion of video-conferencing to the Meadow Lake and La Ronge Provincial Court offices, and to the provincial court circuit points of La Loche and Buffalo Narrows. Equipment was also installed in Battlefords Court of Queen's Bench to allow video-conferencing to proceed for Court of Queen's Bench matters in Meadow Lake. The Regina Provincial Court video-link was underway, with completion expected early in the 2009-10 fiscal year. The cost for video-conferencing was on budget at $300,000.

  Perimeter screening was implemented in the Prince Albert Provincial Court in August 2008 and in the Saskatoon Provincial Court in January 2009, with the Regina Provincial Court underway and expected to be completed early in the 2009-10 fiscal year. At $3.2 million, the cost for perimeter screening was $0.5 million over the original $2.7 million allocated, due to an increase in construction costs.

Improve public confidence in the justice system

- In January 2008, the Ministry created the Fine Collection Branch to enhance the collection process used with offenders who do not voluntarily pay fines (November 2007 Mandate Letter).

  This Branch became operational in 2008-09. It focuses on strengthening civil enforcement and pursuing alternate collection methods in outstanding cases. These collection methods may include garnishment of wages and bank accounts, seizure of personal property, or a hearing to determine if the individual should be incarcerated. The Branch has also partnered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) in order to garnish federal income tax and GST credits from people who have not paid their fines.

  In 2008-09, the following amounts were collected:

  - through civil enforcement – $88,631.20;

  - through garnishment of federal income tax and GST credits – $358,697.31 (June 8, 2008 – March 31, 2009); and

  - after CRA sent Notice of Garnishment, but before garnishment went into effect – $86,005.55 (July 8, 2008 – March 31, 2009).

- In response to recommendations made by the Milgaard Inquiry, Public Prosecutions has implemented one new policy and is close to finalizing a second policy. Work continues to respond to the remaining recommendations.

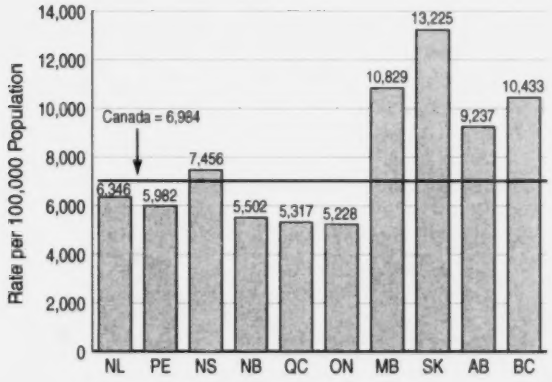
  The first policy implemented relates to prosecutor contact with the National Parole Board (NPB). Prosecutors will not contact the NPB unless it is to request information such as the release date of an offender or obtain information relevant to *Criminal Code* proceedings. If the NPB contacts a prosecutor regarding a particular offender, the prosecutor is to confine any information provided to the facts of the case as found by the Court or facts cited by the Judge in the reasons on sentencing.

  The second policy relates to the process that will be used when a complaint received by the police questions a conviction. The information surrounding that complaint will be brought to the attention of the Director of Public Prosecutions and a process will be put in place to handle that complaint.

Measurement Results

Overall crime rate

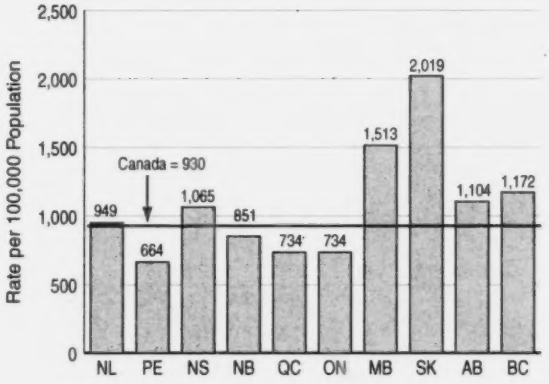
Criminal Code crime, Canada and the provinces, 2007



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS), 2008

Violent crime rate

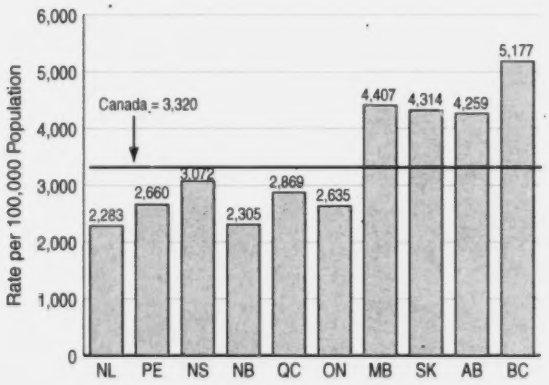
Violent crime, Canada and the provinces, 2007



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

Property crime rate

Property crime, Canada and the provinces, 2007



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, CCJS

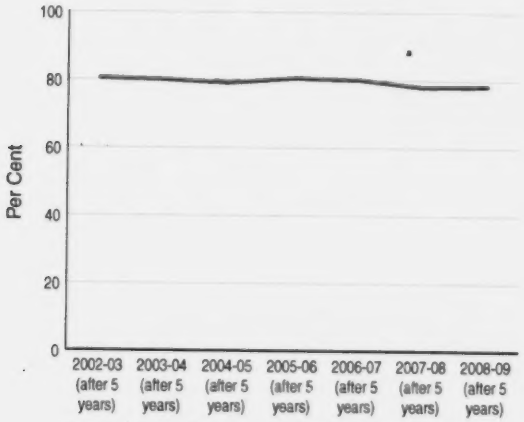
Generally speaking, crime rates provide information on how much and what type of crime is being experienced in communities. They do not necessarily describe how well criminal justice institutions are responding to crime, especially as crime is often a result of social dysfunction, such as addictions, poverty and family trauma.

The most recent data available is from 2007. Although Saskatchewan's 2007 overall crime rate was the highest in Canada, for the fourth consecutive year it fell, decreasing by four per cent over the 2006 rate. The 2007 violent crime rate remained stable and the property crime rate fell 10 per cent to its lowest level in over 30 years.

This data is of interest to the Ministry and to the Government as it provides a measure of the well-being of society and drives the policies that are developed within the criminal justice system.

Offender accountability

Percentage of dollar amount collected of fines ordered, 2002-03 to 2008-09



Source: Court Services, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2009

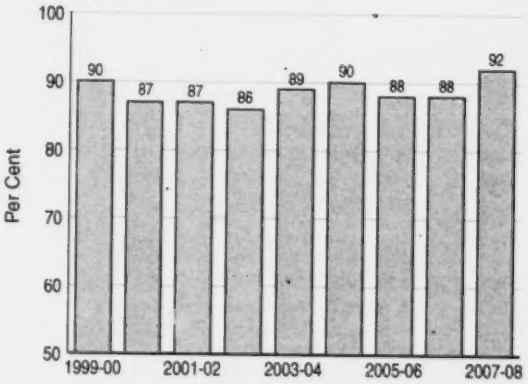
This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government as it demonstrates the degree to which offenders are held accountable for their actions in the criminal justice system, a critical component of community safety. The Ministries of Justice and Attorney General and CPSP work together to hold offenders accountable through custodial sentences and community supervision orders, financial commitments, and community justice programs.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for fine collection. Offenders can be ordered to pay fines as part of their sentence. Because offenders sometimes require time to pay fines, this measure is reported over a five-year time range as a percentage paid of the dollar amount of fines ordered over the past five years. This value has been fairly constant, ranging from 77 per cent to 80 per cent over the last five reporting periods.

The Ministry continues to work on cost-effective methods of collecting unpaid fines and recently implemented an agreement with the Canada Revenue Agency to garnish GST rebates and income tax refunds. The impact of this innovation on fine collection will be seen next fiscal year. However, the Ministry has low to moderate influence over this measure because factors such as the employment status and ability of the individual to pay are out of the Ministry's control.

Offender accountability

Adult offenders successfully completing agreements in alternative measures programs, 1999-00 to 2007-08



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2008

This measure provides data on the successful completion of the adult community justice alternative measures programs that are the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General. Alternative measures programs provide an option within the criminal justice system that allows crime to be addressed outside of the formal court system. People accused of a criminal offence and who take responsibility for their conduct may be offered the opportunity to address the harm caused by their action by participating in diversion, mediation or conferences through a community-based program.

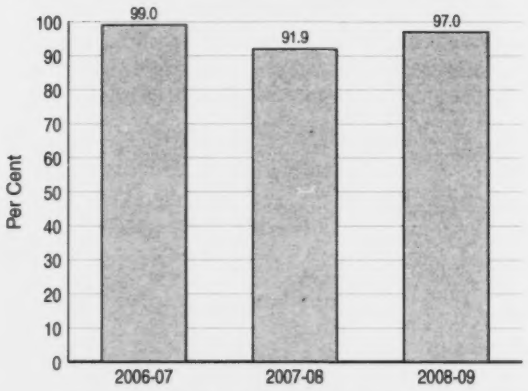
The most recent data available is for 2007-08. Over the years, offenders have had a consistently high level of success in these programs, ranging from 86 per cent to 92 per cent completing.

The Ministry has a low level of influence over the outcome of this measure. These determinants have been identified by program managers as affecting offender success:

- offender attitudes, values, beliefs, cognitive challenges, addictions;
- available treatment services and programs;
- family and social supports;
- educational/employment opportunities; and
- changing police practice.

As well, this performance measure depends on external variables such as the willingness of participants to reach agreements and the skills of the mediator/facilitator. This type of justice intervention may not have a long-term impact on some offenders if lifestyle conditions and supports remain unchanged. However, research and evaluation projects have shown that participants in alternative measures programs are less likely to re-offend than a cohort group of offenders who did not participate in this type of program.

Client satisfaction with Police-based Victim Services programs, 2006-07 and 2008-09

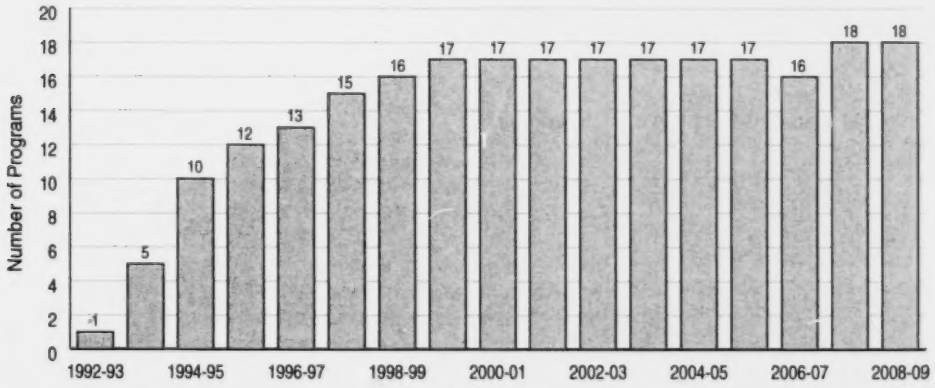


Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2009

Eighteen police-based programs served victims of crime directly and were available to 87 per cent of the Saskatchewan population in 2008-09. These programs provide crisis intervention, information, support and referral for victims of crime and traumatic events such as accidental death. The number of programs and percentage of population served remained the same as the previous year.

Access to and satisfaction with Police-based Victim Services programs

Number of Police-based Victim Services programs, 1992-93 to 2008-09



Source: Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2009

A satisfaction survey has been conducted with the clients of these programs. The most recent aggregate survey results showed that 97 per cent of the respondents were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the supports and services provided and that 96 per cent believed the response met their needs. Almost all (99 per cent) of the respondents believed that they were treated with courtesy and respect in a non-judgmental way.

Funding for these programs that work closely with municipal and RCMP police services comes from the Victims' Fund. Expanding the number of Police-based Victim Services programs depends on increasing the financial resources available in the Victims' Fund. These programs serve victims of crime directly and should be available to all Saskatchewan people. Communities, especially those with high Aboriginal populations, often request that victim services programs be established in their area.

These measures are of interest to the Ministry and the Government as they demonstrate the Ministry's commitment to providing effective services and supports to victims of crime throughout the criminal justice process.

Improved Quality of Life for Saskatchewan People

The theme of improved quality of life for Saskatchewan people is related to key commitments of the Community Justice Division, and Family Justice Services, the Dispute Resolution Office and the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee.

The Ministry recognizes the need to reform the justice system to better meet the needs of Saskatchewan people, with specific emphasis on the needs of First Nations and Métis peoples. A fair, responsive justice system that is valued and respected is a critical component of a safe, secure Saskatchewan and the quality of life of its people.

With Aboriginal communities and leaders, the Ministry strives to provide a justice system that accounts for cultural distinctiveness and actively involves Aboriginal peoples and communities in positive ways. The Ministry encourages the participation of Aboriginal peoples in the administration of justice through its community-based service delivery approach, which recognizes that Aboriginal peoples are best able to provide services to Aboriginal peoples.

The Ministry provides dispute resolution mechanisms that resolve civil matters in constructive and appropriate ways. To parents undergoing separation or divorce, the Ministry also provides a range of family mediation services to assist in resolving issues relating to child custody and access, parenting matters, child and spousal support, and the division of matrimonial property. The meaningful engagement of interested parties is basic to conflict resolution. This means providing dispute resolution mechanisms that are not alienating and mystifying, and ensuring that the values and interests of both parties are fully understood and fairly considered.

The Ministry provides family justice services to help children and families dealing with the difficulties of family breakdown and separation. These services offer productive ways for people involved in family disputes to deal with their situations. They include assistance in the enforcement of maintenance payments, parent education programs and children's education for separating or divorcing families, programs for victims of family violence, custody and access assessments, and supervised access and exchange. At the Family Law Information Centre, which is open to the public, Ministry staff members assist parents with limited income who have a child support order or agreement registered in Saskatchewan and who want to vary that order or agreement. Staff members also provide resources and information to the public in the area of child support and family law. Where other services are necessary, referrals are made to appropriate resources. As well, Justice and Attorney General supports the delivery of legal aid services to low-income persons in family law matters.

Results

Improve access to justice for all Saskatchewan people

- The Ministry responded to the recommendations of the final reports of the Unrepresented Litigants Access to Justice Committee, the Family and Youth Access to Justice Committee, and the Northern Access to Justice Committee, by enhancing or expanding services and policies for children and families.

  - With partners, the Ministry worked to develop and implement processes to ensure the voice of the child is heard in legal proceedings.

    The Access to Justice in Child Protection Committee was established to review and respond to issues raised in the Access report. The Committee consists of representatives from Justice and Attorney General (co-chair), Social Services (co-chair), Children's Advocate, Legal Aid and Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan.

  - Amendments to the maintenance enforcement legislation were passed, to enhance the ability of the Maintenance Enforcement Office to collect child and spousal support payments. It will be implemented in 2009-10 (2008-09 Budget Summary).

- The Ministry continued to improve access for unrepresented or self-represented citizens through the following:

  - With the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission and the Law Foundation, the Ministry conducted a feasibility study for the creation of a legal information/summary advice line and Internet portal.

  - The Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission and the Ministry established an advisory committee to oversee the contracted work on the feasibility study.

- As is described in some detail on page 13, the Ministry focused on expanding the use of video-conferencing to improve access of citizens in the North (2008-09 Budget Summary).

- Implementation of the Regina Domestic Violence Court began with the first sitting in March 2008 and continued throughout 2008-09. $430,000 was budgeted for its implementation. Over 500 offenders have appeared in the court and services and supports were provided to over 900 victims with cases in the court. This was the third specialized domestic violence court in Saskatchewan, joining existing courts in Saskatoon and the Battlefords (2008-09 Budget Summary).

Support adults and children in vulnerable circumstances

- Victims Services and Court Services have worked together to develop a plan to facilitate testimony from outside the courtroom for child witnesses for implementation in 2009-10. The plan includes using existing video-conferencing equipment recently installed in several courthouses and expanding video-conferencing capacity through the use of portable equipment in remote court locations across the province.

- Through continued participation on facility planning committees, Victim/Witness Services personnel provided recommendations for the inclusion of child-friendly features in plans for new courthouses in Meadow Lake and La Ronge, renovations to existing courthouses in Saskatoon and Weyburn and in the temporary facility in Weyburn.

- Fees for post-mortem examinations were increased for general pathologists, effective April 1, 2008, to enhance forensic expertise by building capacity for criminal and non-criminal cases.

- The Ministry continued to work with the Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF) and the Regional Intersectoral Committees (RICs) to ensure a seamless integrated service delivery system for children, youth and families among human service ministries, agencies and other stakeholders at the provincial, regional and local levels.

  The Ministry supported policy work to enhance the business of the Forum, specifically as it related to RICs. A meeting between the HSIF and the RICs took place in fall 2008.

Increase participation of Aboriginal peoples in justice system delivery

- The Ministry continued to maintain the capacity and engagement of Aboriginal peoples in their community structures, program design and delivery. Programs were stable in relation to staff retention and support of volunteers serving on boards such as community justice committees.

- With other human services ministries and First Nations and Métis organizations, the Ministry supported continuing partnerships to promote social and economic well-being for Aboriginal peoples. Ministries continued to work well together to finish work on the Action Plan to respond to the *Final Report of the Commission on First Nations and Métis People and Justice Reform*. Although the three-year response time-frame has concluded, the collaborative process established will continue to be useful.

Enhance cultural diversity and awareness in justice sectors

- Executive Committee, with the support of the Human Resources Service Team, formed the Justice Diversity Steering Committee to review and make recommendations to strengthen efforts across the Ministry. Analysis of fiscal diversity efforts and progress in 2007-08 showed that the Ministry's focus on Aboriginal recruitment was bringing additional Aboriginal employees into the workforce. However, further review showed that attention should specifically include targeted recruitment of all equity groups, as well as actions aimed at retaining these individuals once they are hired into the Ministry.

  In 2008-09, the Ministry hired 22 diversity employees, of which 11 were new to government. Twelve self-identified as First Nations or Métis. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General was represented at numerous job fairs throughout the year, including the University of Regina, Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST), Stepping Stones, Investing in an Aboriginal Workforce Career Fair, and the University of Saskatchewan. Planning for the Career Ambassador program was begun with implementation expected in the next fiscal year. Under this new program, trained Ministry employees will strengthen the Ministry's recruitment efforts by attending job fairs to provide first-hand information about working in the public service.

  The Ministry continued to increase cultural awareness for the Ministry and justice system employees. The new Management and Leadership Competencies direct specific attention to valuing and drawing on diversity when leading employees. Cultural awareness fits into this new competency, "Building Organizational Community," and is being incorporated in ongoing work planning for the upcoming year. Recruitment in positions that are culturally sensitive was highlighted and discussed as a valued part in the hiring process.

  The Ministry participated in the Northern Justice Symposium, where employees engaged in discussions, networked, and developed a broader and deeper understanding of northern issues. Training opportunities that included culturally specific content were also made available to Justice employees.

  The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission announced the public launch of a new Equity Site, a practical resource for the Ministry to learn about employment equity and diversity in the workplace.

Improve programs to better meet the needs of Saskatchewan people

- The initiative with Justice Canada to develop a plan to conduct an evaluation of the impact of Aboriginal justice programs in Saskatchewan is moving forward slowly. Officials from the Ministry are working closely with Justice Canada to ensure the needs of the Ministry and its programs are met.

  An official with the Ministry co-chaired a Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) Liaison Officer Committee Working Group that oversaw research conducted in 2008-09 on police-reported Aboriginal data collection. This was done to ensure that accurate and appropriate data collection processes were in place to support analysis of the scope and causes of Aboriginal offending and victimization. Consultations were held with key stakeholders (police services and Aboriginal organizations) across Saskatchewan to determine the level of support in the Aboriginal community for the

collection of Aboriginal identity data by police. Also examined were current practices among police services in Saskatchewan regarding the collection of Aboriginal identity data and ways for police to ascertain the Aboriginal identity of persons with whom they come into contact. This phase of the project was completed in March 2009.

The RCMP have indicated that they must obtain direction from their commanding officer on whether to proceed with continued participation in the pilot study and then conduct a privacy impact assessment.

Negotiate key federal/provincial agreements

- A civil and criminal business case for enhanced federal funding was presented to the federal Justice Minister in September 2008 for action. Given the current fiscal climate nationally, the current funding agreement for criminal legal aid was extended for a further year.

  The Ministry continues to work with Justice Canada to support community justice programs co-funded through the federal Aboriginal Justice Strategy. Under this strategy, Saskatchewan cost-shares community justice agreements that involve several tribal councils and 69 of 72 First Nations in the province. The 2008-09 fiscal year marks the 12th year of this partnership. The cost-shared funding also supports off-reserve services in La Loche, Regina, Prince Albert and Yorkton, as well as initiatives offered by Métis Family and Community Justice Services Inc. The Ministry continues to work with Justice Canada to support the work of the Aboriginal Justice Strategy.

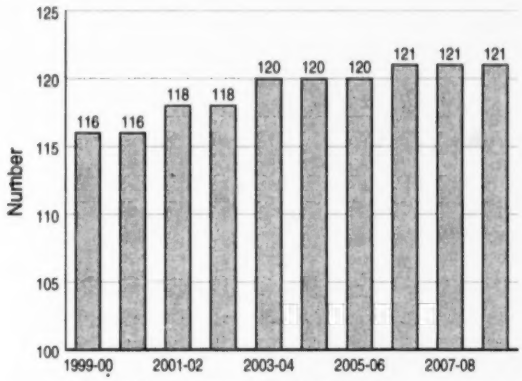
- The agreement to provide federal support for the Regina Drug Treatment Court was extended to March 31, 2010.

- In September 2008, the federal Minister of Justice approved an extension of the federal child-centred justice funding for a further five years to enable jurisdictions to better support families dealing with divorce and separation. This funding is used to provide mediation, parenting education and child support recalculation services and, in the long term, assists Saskatchewan in moving towards its vision of custody and access issues being determined in a nurturing, child-centred way through appropriate dispute resolution processes that promote child and family resiliency.

Measurement Results

Communities engaged in crime prevention activities

Communities engaged in crime prevention activities with Justice and Attorney General, 1999-00 to 2008-09



Source: Community Justice Division, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2009

The number of communities engaged in crime prevention activities with the Ministry has remained fairly constant for the last five years. The number of communities partnering with the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to offer justice-related programs provides a measure of community engagement in community justice activities. These programs include community justice programs, victims services programs, crime prevention programs and family violence prevention programs.

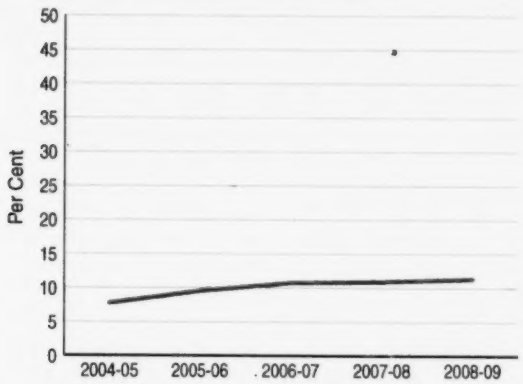
Implementation of the community-based model the Ministry uses to promote community justice takes time. Community readiness is a critical factor because the community has a vital role in developing these programs to support a response to criminal behaviour and victimization that meets locally determined needs. The Ministry continues to have success with this model and has a high

level of influence over this measure as the Ministry often initiates and supports community participation through community-based organizations.

This measure is of interest to the Ministry and the Government because it demonstrates the extent of partnerships and relationships between the Ministry and community-based organizations. Partnering with community-based organizations is a critical foundation of community justice activity and provides a measure of community engagement in crime prevention.

Employment diversity

Change in workforce to reflect the diversity of the clientele the Ministry serves

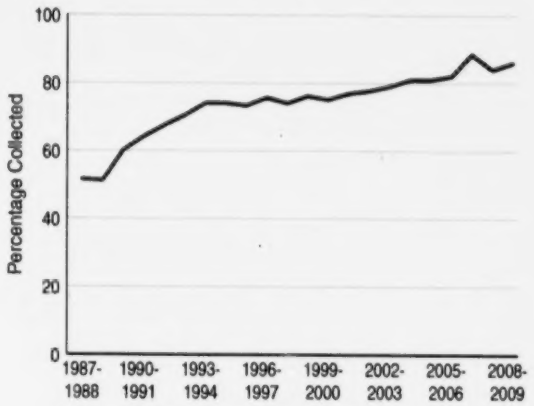


Source: Public Service Commission, 2009

Aboriginal people want to be more involved in working within the justice system to ensure programs are culturally relevant and responsive. Having individuals from the Aboriginal community working within the Ministry to ensure the interests of Aboriginal people are understood and incorporated into program development and implementation increases the confidence of Aboriginal people in the justice system.

The Ministry has a moderate level of influence over this measure. The Ministry of Justice and Attorney General is committed to workplace diversity. However, it has no control over the applicants who apply.

Collection of support payments for children and families



Source: Maintenance Enforcement Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2009

Maintenance enforcement orders and agreements for financial support occur following a divorce or separation. The health and well-being of the families depend on timely receipt of support income to which they are entitled. This performance measure provides evidence that the Saskatchewan Maintenance Enforcement Office has consistently improved its rate of collection over the long term since it was first opened in the 1987-88 fiscal year.

For the past five years, the Maintenance Enforcement Office has maintained a collection rate of over 80 per cent. In 2008-09, the Office collected 86 per cent of monies owed in maintenance and enforcement orders and agreements referred to the Maintenance Enforcement Office. This was two per cent more than in 2007-08, and had a value of $32.86 million.

The Ministry has a high level of influence over this measure. It can enforce orders through garnishment of wages, bank accounts, and federal government payments, such as employment insurance, Canada Pension payments, Old Age Security, income tax refunds or GST credits. It is always looking for new ways to ensure the successful collection of monies owed.

Legal and Policy Services

The Ministry provides legal and policy services through the Civil Law Division and Public Law Division, and through the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch, Access to Privacy Branch, Consumer Protection Branch, Corporations Branch, and the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission.

The Ministry is committed in all of its operations to the rule of law. It carries out the traditional role of the Attorney General in maintaining the rule of law and seeing that the administration of public affairs is in accordance with the law. One important aspect of this role is the provision of legal and policy advice and services to Government.

The changing nature of the marketplace requires constant vigilance. Consumers are buying goods and services in forms and in ways not contemplated a decade ago, and businesses are evolving. To remain effective, adaptations must be made and regulations reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure they promote economic and social well-being.

Results

Promote a favourable environment for business and better protect consumers

- A multi-media advertising campaign was launched in March 2009 to raise awareness of consumer issues and the existence and role of the Consumer Protection Branch. The campaign, *The Money Game: Play it for Keeps,* included radio, billboards, interior and exterior bus boards and a print ad with a website for more information. A baseline survey on awareness was done prior to the launch. The campaign will continue throughout 2009-10 and will include information on the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission. Plans are in place to collect data to measure the impact on levels of awareness in fall 2009.

- The following legislation was developed in 2008-09:

  - Amendments to *The Credit Union Act, 1998,* which will allow the addition of independent director positions to the Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Board, will be implemented in 2009-10.

  - Amendments to *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006* were passed and will come into effect in 2009-10 to streamline the process for dealing with security deposits for rental premises and to respond to the Task Force on Housing Affordability.

  - Amendments to *The Consumer Protection Act* were passed in 2008-09, to protect consumers who purchase and use gift cards and gift certificates. The amendments prohibit expiry dates on most retail gift cards and regulate fees that reduce the value of a gift card.

  - Development continued on new money judgment enforcement legislation with the intention to introduce the legislation in 2009-10.

  - Legislation to protect property owners from trespassers was developed and will be implemented in 2009-10.

  - Review of consumer protection legislation and the mandate of the Consumer Protection Branch progressed according to plan.

- Commencing January 1, 2009, a drafter was assigned to work full-time on the Statute Revision project that will provide business with access to up-to-date, electronic versions of Saskatchewan legislation. Foundational work, such as developing revision standards, researching specific issues and developing a document tracking system, has been done. The project formally commences on July 1, 2009.

Support an improved situation for investment

- The Ministry continued developing the new regulatory regime for mortgage brokers, to protect consumers requiring mortgage financing. In addition, the Ministry released a discussion paper on temporary solvency relief for defined benefit pension plans in Saskatchewan and consulted on possible changes.

- The Ministry continued to be engaged with the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission (SFSC) and other jurisdictions on the continued implementation of the passport system for securities regulation and harmonization of securities laws. Much of the work has been completed for the implementation of the next major phase of the passport system for registrants in fall 2009.

- The Ministry continued working with the SFSC and other jurisdictions on ways to enhance securities enforcement. A national group continued work on other recommendations for enhancing securities enforcement in Canada in a criminal law context.

- Financial services regulators with the SFSC continued to monitor the financial services sector and actively worked with their colleagues in other jurisdictions on appropriate regulatory responses. The Commission takes enforcement action where appropriate through its administrative law processes.

- In response to the Provincial Auditor's recommendations about ensuring adequate processes are in place to investigate the complaints of public investors, the SFSC engaged a consultant to review its processes and make recommendations. The Commission began implementing the recommendations in 2008-09 and will continue in 2009-10. The Commission created and filled two new securities fraud investigator positions and is investing additional resources in this area as required.

- Development of a plan to transfer decision-making responsibilities currently assigned to statutory authorities, such as the Superintendent of Insurance, Superintendent of Financial Institutions, Registrar of Credit Unions and Superintendent of Pensions, to the SFSC to enhance regulatory responsiveness and ensure consistent policy development across all the financial services "pillars" was deferred to 2009-10. A decision on the transfer of decision-making responsibilities will follow the establishment of the SFSC as a special operating agency, effective July 1, 2009. This structure will establish direct funding for SFSC from revenues received, subject to annual Treasury Board approval, and provide SFSC with greater financial flexibility to fulfil its role as Saskatchewan's primary regulator of the financial services industry, including the credit union system, insurance, pensions, securities, trust and loans corporations, and mortgage brokers.

Increase participation of Aboriginal peoples in Government decision-making

- The Ministry continued to support Government in implementing the new consultation policy with First Nations and Métis peoples. The Aboriginal Law Branch of the Ministry continued to provide legal and policy advice to the Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations with respect to the development of a new consultation policy with First Nations and Métis peoples. The Branch sent a representative to the Roundtable Conference on consultations held in Saskatoon in May 2008 to hear the perspectives of First Nations, Métis and industry directly. The Branch also provided assistance in drafting the new policy, released in December 2008, and has been assisting in evaluating the feedback on it. The new policy should be finalized in the fall of 2009.

Improve program management and accountability

- To ensure justice-funded programs are effective and efficient, reviews and evaluations of the following were conducted:
  - Public Prosecutions Division
  - The Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
  - Court Services (in progress)
  - Alternative Measures guidelines (report pending)
  - The Saskatchewan Restitution Program (report pending)
  - Application of Federal Surcharge (report pending)
  - Specialized courts

The review of the Public Prosecutions Division was completed in 2008-09. Reviews of Court Services, and the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee were initiated and will be completed in 2009-10. A review of guidelines for alternative measures programs was conducted and the report will be completed in 2009-10. The review of the Saskatchewan Restitution Program and the review of the federal surcharge, both conducted with Justice Canada, were completed in 2009-10 and the report will be available in 2009-10.

Process and outcome program evaluations of the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court and the Saskatoon Domestic Violence Court were completed. The interim developmental evaluation of the Regina Domestic Violence Court was also completed. As well, a separate recidivism study enhanced the evaluation findings of the Battlefords Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court. Evaluation of the Regina Drug Treatment Court was begun and will be completed in September 2009. The completed evaluation reports are available from the Ministry.

Define the amount and type of advertising a government can do in the four months preceding an election (2007 Mandate Letter)

- The Ministry reviewed current practice and developed legislation to restrict the amount and type of advertising a government can commission in the four months preceding an election. The legislation will be implemented in 2009-10.

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of information management systems

- Justice and Attorney General and CPSP continued to work on the Criminal Justice Information Management System project. A project team was established and work began on a business case for submission to the Information Technology Office (ITO) in 2009-10.

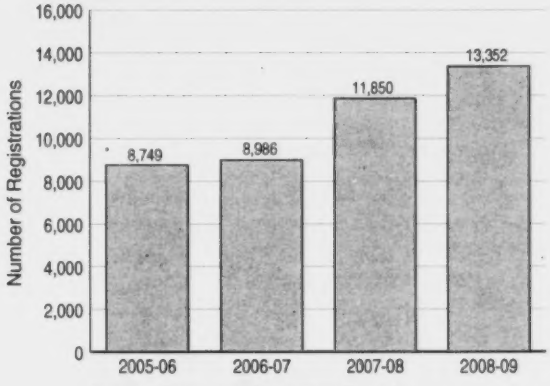
- The Ministry contracted with Potter Farrelly and Associates to prepare a requirements document to design the functional specifications for the invitation of tenders to provide a case management solution for the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. A written report was provided that identified potential case management solutions and their probable cost for the purpose of creating a proposal. Development of a request for proposal and the process to proceed with the tender will be completed during 2009-10.

Process mapping and identification of requirements to automate the Provincial Court trial scheduling system were completed. Identification of potential solutions and their probable cost will be completed in 2009-10. Decisions regarding next steps will be made when the cost for potential solutions has been identified.

Measurement Result

Change in businesses registering in Saskatchewan

Number of incorporations and business registrations of all types processed



Source: Consumer Protection Branch, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, 2009

This measure shows that the number of incorporations and business registrations of all types processed has increased. This demonstrates that the province's business community is growing and that Saskatchewan is an attractive place to do business. In 2008-09, the number of business incorporations, registrations, and changes processed increased by 13 per cent over 2007-08 and by 53 per cent over the 2005-06 baseline.

Financial Overview 2008-09

The Ministry's original 2008-09 expenditure budget (appropriation) was $131.3 million, including $3.1 million for capital asset acquisitions and $129.5 million on an expense basis. The expense budget excludes the $3.1 million appropriation for the Ministry to acquire capital assets and includes $1.3 million for the amortization of capital assets.

For 2008-09, actual expenses were $139.5 million; a variance of $8.2 million greater than the appropriation. In summary, the increased costs are attributable to:

- construction of a new courthouse in Meadow Lake;
- hiring additional staff to address workload pressures in Court Services, Public Guardian and Trustee, Human Rights Commission, Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid;
- operating pressures driven by service levels in Corporations and the information technology partnership;
- adjustment in the valuation of the Judges' disability plan; and
- completion of the Milgaard Inquiry.

These costs were partially offset by reduced spending in the coroners program due to staffing delays, and operational savings in other programs. Through the fall 2008 and spring 2009 Supplementary Estimates process, additional funding was provided to the Ministry to offset the budgetary pressures.

In the fall of 2008, the Legislature approved $3.5 million as Supplementary Estimates. In the spring of 2009, an additional $5.4 million was provided by Supplementary Estimates. Additional statutory funding of $49,000 was provided for Salaries – Provincial Court Judges and Queen's Printer Revolving Fund, as authorized by law.

In the fall of 2008, $3.5 million in Supplementary Estimates funding was provided to offset expenditures related to:

- completion of the Milgaard Inquiry – $500,000;
- salary increases for community-based organizations – $285,000; and
- workload and operating pressures in Court Services, Public Guardian and Trustee, Corporations and Human Rights Commission – $2,670,000.

In the spring of 2009, additional Supplementary Estimates funding of $5.4 million was provided to offset expenditures related to:

- provision of Ministry information technology services – $1,000,000;
- workload and operating pressures in Court Services, Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Commission and Inquiries – $1,700,000;
- accounting adjustment for the estimated liability for the Judges' disability plan – $850,000; and
- construction of the new courthouse in Meadow Lake – $1,800,000.

Expense results by sub-vote and program area are summarized in subsequent pages of this report.

The 2008-09 revenue budget was $44.9 million. Actual revenue was $51.3 million, or $6.4 million greater than the budget. The additional revenue is a result of an increase in activities related to securities and corporate filings and fines ordered through the courts. Revenue results are summarized in subsequent pages of this report.

The 2008-09 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) budget was 909.0 FTEs, with actual FTE utilization of 942.5 for the year. The FTE utilization was 33.5 FTEs over the budget. This reflects the additional staff required to address workload pressures in Courts and Public Prosecutions.

2008-09 Financial Results – Expenditures

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by sub-vote and sub-program. Explanations are provided where variances are greater than $100,000. All amounts are shown in $000s.

Sub-vote	Sub-program	2007-08 Actual Expend.	2008-09 Original Estimate	2008-09 Actual Expend.	Variance	Notes
Central Management and Services	Executive Management	$ 999	$ 949	$ 1,084	$ 135	1
	Central Services	6,308	5,131	6,117	986	2
	Accommodation Services	14,107	13,957	13,562	(395)	3
Total Central Management and Services		**$ 21,414**	**$ 20,037**	**$ 20,763**	**$ 726**	
Courts and Civil Justice	Court Services	$ 26,728	$ 24,971	$ 28,165	$ 3,194	4
	Dispute Resolution	1,605	1,540	1,574	34	
	Family Justice Services	3,144	3,949	3,987	38	
	Public Guardian and Trustee	2,392	2,339	2,537	198	5
	Salaries – Provincial Court Judges	10,968	10,805	11,662	857	6
Total Courts and Civil Justice		**$ 44,837**	**$ 43,604**	**$ 47,925**	**$ 4,321**	
Legal and Policy Services	Access and Privacy	$ 278	$ 319	$ 301	$ (18)	
	Civil Law	3,396	3,513	3,767	254	7
	Communications	406	548	484	(64)	
	Policy, Planning and Evaluation	1,120	1,280	1,107	(173)	8
	Public Law	3,003	3,268	3,307	39	
	Public Prosecutions	16,014	16,328	16,988	660	9
	Queen's Printer – Net Financing Requirement	(16)	19	61	42	
	Queen's Printer – Subsidy	148	98	65	(33)	
Total Legal and Policy Services		**$ 24,349**	**$ 25,373**	**$ 26,080**	**$ 725**	
Community Justice	Community Services	$ 6,500	$ 6,459	$ 6,558	$ 99	10
	Coroners	1,949	2,772	2,475	(297)	11
	Public Complaints Commission	539	689	629	(60)	
Total Community Justice		**$ 8,988**	**$ 9,920**	**$ 9,662**	**$ (258)**	
Marketplace Regulation	Consumer Protection	$ 800	$ 779	$ 810	$ 31	
	Corporations	1,944	1,844	1,993	149	12
	Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission	2,586	2,817	2,699	(118)	13
	Land Titles Assurance Claims	1	25	1	(24)	
Total Marketplace Regulation		**$ 5,331**	**$ 5,465**	**$ 5,503**	**$ 38**	
Boards and Commissions	Automobile Injury Appeal Commission	$ 728	$ 876	$ 820	$ (56)	
	Inquiries	1,414	215	719	504	14
	Legal Aid Commission	18,596	19,865	20,315	450	15
	Residential Tenancies/ Provincial Mediation Board	1,175	1,190	1,117	(73)	
	Human Rights Commission	1,753	1,697	1,850	153	16
Total Boards and Commissions		**$ 23,666**	**$ 23,843**	**$ 24,821**	**$ 978**	
Courts Capital	Courts Capital	$ 3,811	$ 3,050	$ 4,790	$ 1,740	17
Total Courts Capital		**$ 3,811**	**$ 3,050**	**$ 4,790**	**$ 1,740**	
Initial Appropriation and Actual Expenditures		**$ 132,396**	**$ 131,292**	**$ 139,544**	**$ 8,252**	
Supplementary Estimates (approved in fall 2008)			3,455		(3,455)	18
Supplementary Estimates (approved in spring 2009)			5,350		(5,350)	19
Statutory Funding			49		(49)	
Total Ministry Appropriation		**$ 132,396**	**$ 140,146**	**$ 139,544**	**$ (602)**	
Capital Asset Acquisitions		(3,750)	(3,050)	(4,582)	(1,532)	17
Capital Asset Amortization		542	1,300	686	(614)	20
Total Ministry Expense		**$ 129,188**	**$ 138,396**	**$ 135,648**	**$ (2,748)**	

Explanation of major variances

1 Increase in accrued vacation leave and hiring of summer students.

2 Costs to support the information technology partnership with ITO greater than budgeted.

3 Cost of space leased through Government Services lower than anticipated.

4 Increased costs related to court security, workload pressures and travel, and other operating pressures.

5 Hiring of additional term staff to address workload pressures.

6 Increase in vacation leave liability and accrual adjustments related to the disability plan.

7 Increased cost for outside legal counsel.

8 Later than anticipated start on research projects.

9 Additional staff to address workload pressures and travel, and other operating costs.

10 Increase in contract costs with community-based organizations due to mid-year salary increase offset by vacancy savings and later than anticipated start on projects.

11 Vacancy and operational savings due to recruitment delays.

12 Increased operating costs due to higher workload volumes.

13 Vacancy savings.

14 Completion of the Milgaard Inquiry.

15 Increased use of the private bar to backfill vacant positions in hard-to-recruit locations and increased costs for court-appointed counsel.

16 Severance payment and additional staff to address workload pressures.

17 Increased capital spending for Meadow Lake Provincial Court project.

18 Additional funding required for completion of the Milgaard Inquiry, the mid-year funding increase for community-based organizations, and workload pressures in Court Services, Public Guardian and Trustee, Corporations and Human Rights Commission.

19 Additional funding required to support the information technology partnership with ITO, an accrual entry for the Judges' disability plan, workload pressures in Court Services, Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid Commission, and construction of the Meadow Lake courthouse.

20 Amortization of capital assets lower than anticipated.

Detailed payee information will be published in Volume 2 of the 2008-09 Public Accounts.

2008-09 Financial Results – Revenues

The Ministry collects revenues related to fines, licences and service fees on behalf of the Government and receives funding from the federal government related to Legal Aid and other cost-shared programs.

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted revenues by revenue description. Explanations are provided for all variances greater than $100,000. All amounts are shown in $000s.

Description	Revenue Budget	Actual Revenue	Variance	Notes
Other licences and permits	$ 7,845	$ 9,609	$ 1,764	1
Sales, services and service fees	19,116	22,736	3,620	2
Fines, forfeits and penalties	10,175	11,442	1,267	3
Interest, premium, discount, and exchange	20	138	118	4
Transfers from the federal government	6,713	6,164	(549)	5
Transfers from government entities	889	891	2	
Other revenues	156	359	203	6
Ministry Revenue	**$ 44,914**	**$ 51,339**	**$ 6,425**	

Explanation of major variances

1 Increase in premiums from non-registered insurance policies and filings of corporate annual returns.

2 Increase in securities fees in the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission and in Surrogate Court fees.

3 Increase in fines ordered.

4 Favourable foreign exchange gains.

5 Reduced recoveries from Crown agencies.

6 Increase in miscellaneous revenue.

Revolving Funds and Special Purpose Accounts

The Ministry is responsible for managing and c rating the following revolving or special purpose funds:

- Queen's Printer Revolving Fund
- Victims' Fund

Information regarding the 2008-09 business activities of these funds can be found in Appendix C of this annual report. The financial statements for these funds can be found on the Ministry website: **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**

For More Information

This report provides information about our accomplishments and our future plans. We welcome any questions or comments that you may have. Please feel free to contact us at:

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General
Communications Branch
1000 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina SK S4P 4B3

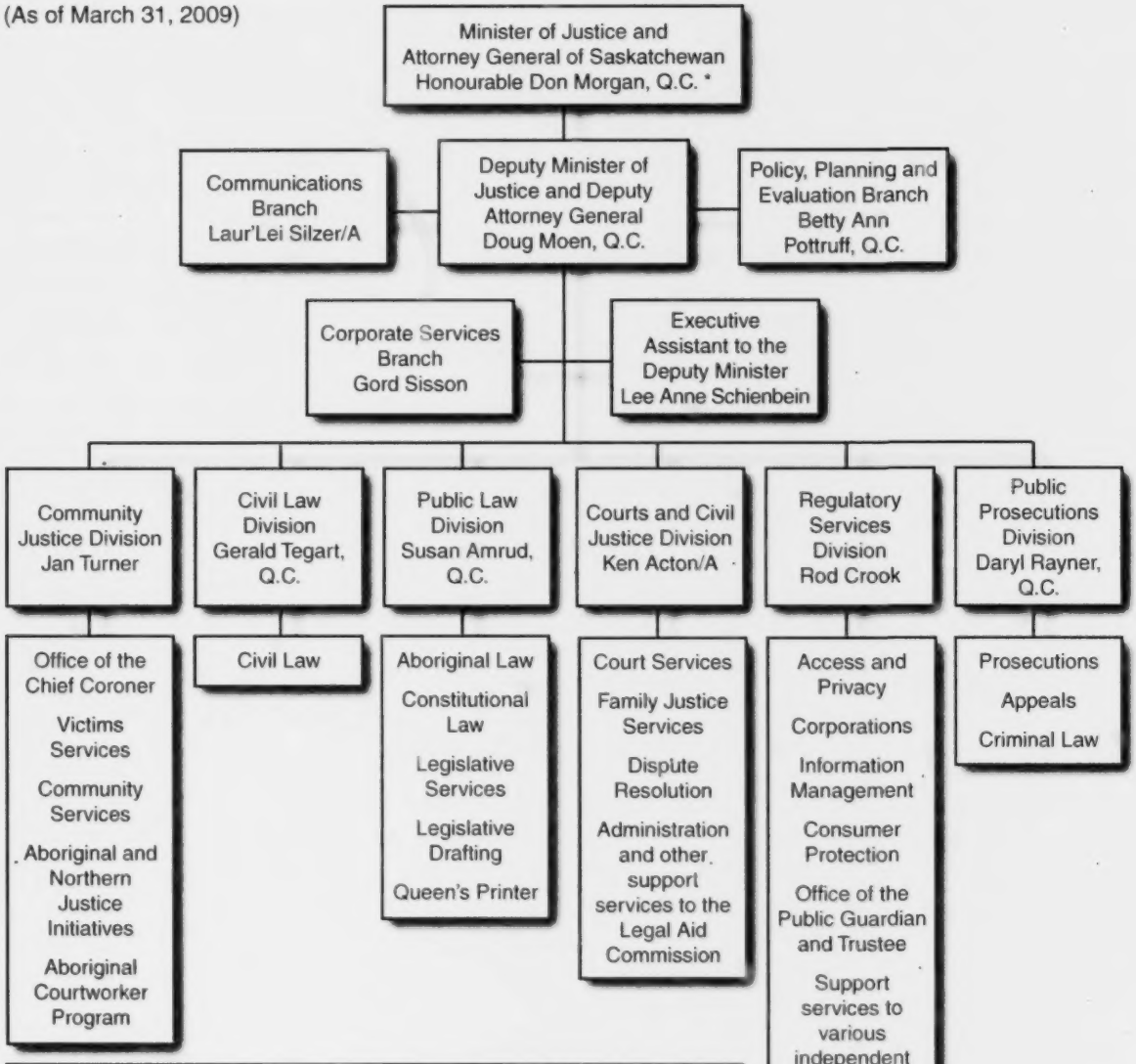
By phone: (306) 787-7872

Or send an email through the Ministry website at: **www.justice.gov.sk.ca**

Additional copies of this report are available for download on the Ministry website.

Appendix A: Organizational Chart

(As of March 31, 2009)


Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Saskatchewan Honourable Don Morgan, Q.C. *
Communications Branch Laur'Lei Silzer/A
Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General Doug Moen, Q.C.
Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch Betty Ann Pottruff, Q.C.
Corporate Services Branch Gord Sisson
Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister Lee Anne Schienbein
Community Justice Division Jan Turner
Civil Law Division Gerald Tegart, Q.C.
Public Law Division Susan Amrud, Q.C.
Courts and Civil Justice Division Ken Acton/A
Regulatory Services Division Rod Crook
Public Prosecutions Division Daryl Rayner, Q.C.
Office of the Chief Coroner
Victims Services
Community Services
Aboriginal and Northern Justice Initiatives
Aboriginal Courtworker Program
Civil Law
Aboriginal Law
Constitutional Law
Legislative Services
Legislative Drafting
Queen's Printer
Court Services
Family Justice Services
Dispute Resolution
Administration and other support services to the Legal Aid Commission
Access and Privacy
Corporations
Information Management
Consumer Protection
Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee
Support services to various independent Boards and Commissions
Prosecutions
Appeals
Criminal Law

Also Responsible for:

- Aboriginal Courtworker Advisory Committee
- Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
- Co-operative Securities Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Law Reform Commission
- Office of Residential Tenancies
- Provincial Mediation Board
- Public Complaints Commission
- Public and Private Rights Board
- Saskatchewan Advisory Board of Review
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Appeal Committee
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Board
- Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal
- Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission
- Victims Compensation Appeal Committee

Appendix B: Boards and Commissions

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General is responsible for a number of boards and commissions that receive varying levels of administrative and policy support from the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General, including:

- Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
- Co-operative Securities Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Law Reform Commission
- Office of Residential Tenancies
- Provincial Mediation Board
- Public Complaints Commission
- Public and Private Rights Board
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Appeal Committee
- Saskatchewan Film Classification Board
- Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission
- Saskatchewan Human Rights Tribunal
- Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission

Most of these boards and commissions produce and table their own annual reports. However, the following agencies have very brief annual reports, which are included in this document to accommodate the tabling requirements and reduce printing costs:

- Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
- Provincial Mediation Board
- Office of Residential Tenancies

Automobile Injury Appeal Commission

The Automobile Injury Appeal Commission opened on January 1, 2003 as an independent, quasi-judicial, administrative tribunal responsible for hearing appeals under the Personal Injury Protection Plan for injuries sustained in motor vehicle accidents, regardless of fault. The plan is administered by Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI).

When people are not satisfied with a personal injury benefits decision made by SGI under the no fault system, they can file an appeal with either the Court of Queen's Bench or the Commission. In either case, there is a time limit to file an appeal. Appeals must be filed either 90 days from the date of SGI's decision or, if mediation was elected, 60 days from the date mediation was completed.

Claimants filing an appeal to the Commission pay a $75 application fee. If this causes substantial hardship, claimants may ask the Commission to waive the fee by obtaining and filing a Certificate of Substantial Hardship. The fee (if paid) is refunded if the claimant is successful. Once the claimant and SGI have filed all documents relevant to an appeal, the Commission gives written notice of the hearing date, time and location. Hearings are regularly held in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina. Documents are then packaged and presented to assist the parties and appeal panel in reviewing the documentary evidence. Claimants can represent themselves or have their lawyers present their cases to the Commission. In approximately two of three appeals, claimants are self-represented. SGI is invariably represented by counsel.

Both the claimant and SGI have the right to examine and cross-examine any witness. If necessary, either party can arrange to have a witness subpoenaed to attend the hearing. Witnesses can testify by telephone if they are unable to attend the hearing in person.

The Commission interprets and applies the law and the regulations governing no fault benefits. It has the authority to set aside, confirm or vary benefit decisions made by SGI under the no fault benefits plan. Written reasons for the Commission's decision are provided to and binding on both parties. The decision can be appealed to the Court of Appeal on a question of law only. Transcripts are provided to the parties upon request and at their expense.

Appeal hearings are open to the public and the Commission's decisions are published on its website and other legal sites, although de-identified for purposes of web publication. This practice assists claimants and the general public in knowing more about their entitlement to injury benefits and offers unrepresented claimants an opportunity to become familiar with the hearing process.

Governing legislation includes:

- *The Automobile Accident Insurance Act, 1995 and 2002*
- *The Personal Injury Benefits Regulations, 1995 and 2002*
- *The Automobile Accident Insurance (Injury) Regulations, 2005*

Budget: $947,000

FTEs: 6.0

Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
Appeals Status (as of March 31, 2009)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Appeals Filed	171	179	144	122	125	113
Closed, Withdrawn, Settled	49	70	76	54	55	14
Adjourned	5	5	4	10	6	1
Hearings Concluded	117	103	60	45	27	4
Total Outstanding	0	1	4	13	37	94
Decisions Issued	117	103	60	45	27	4
Decisions to be Issued	0	0	0	0	0	0

2008-09 Program Highlights

- De-identification of decisions for Internet publication.
- Client Stakeholder Survey conducted in June 2008.
- Annual Commission member meeting held in December 2008.

2009-10 Goals and Objectives

- Carry out a business plan, in consultation with stakeholders, to reduce timelines for an appeal.
- Continue supporting resolution of disputes between the parties in the appeal process.
- Pursue regular professional and technical development opportunities for Commission members and staff.
- Establish internal resources to aid Commission members in conducting legal research and reviewing issued decisions.
- Increase meetings of Commission members.
- Meet regularly with stakeholders to identify service level expectations and concerns.

Membership of the Commission

- Barbara Tomkins, Regina, Chairperson
- Beverly Cleveland, Regina, Vice-Chairperson
- Peter Bergbusch, Regina
- Pamela Joy Dobko, Saskatoon
- Marjory Gammel, Saskatoon
- Conrad Hnatiuk, Regina
- Carolyn Jones, Saskatoon
- Al Knippel, Saskatoon
- Jane Lancaster, Q.C., Saskatoon
- Jean MacKay, Regina
- Walter Matkowski, Saskatoon
- Dr. Mukesh Mirchandani, Yorkton
- Carol Olson, Saskatoon
- Stephanie Pfefferle, Saskatoon
- Ann Phillips, Q.C., Regina
- Jeff Scott, Regina
- Darleen Topp, Saskatoon

Provincial Mediation Board and Office of Residential Tenancies

The Provincial Mediation Board offers assistance to individuals and families with personal debt problems by reviewing their financial situation and the options to resolve their crises, and is often able to arrange new repayment plans with creditors. The Provincial Mediation Board has continued to assist many individuals with outstanding student loans. The Board helps arrange repayment plans for property tax arrears and provides information on residential foreclosure procedures.

The services of the Provincial Mediation Board are free to people across the province. Over 500 people contacted the office for help on various debt-related problems in 2008-09 and the Board made over 10 presentations on debt management to different groups. As well, they encourage debtors to develop better budgeting habits.

Payments are channeled through the Board, with the program returning over $1 million to the credit industry on behalf of debtors. The credit industry returns a portion of this money to the program to assist with the costs of administration.

The program is partnered with problem gambling treatment programs. To offer guidance to individuals in resolving the financial fallout that often accompanies the addiction, monthly presentations were provided for the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region Problem Gambling Day Treatment Program.

The number of people assisted by personal debt repayment plans has decreased significantly over the previous few years. This is a sign of better economic times in the province. With a relatively healthy economy, the number of people needing assistance continues to drop. However, there is still a need to intervene on behalf of debtors who face adversity.

Governing legislation:

- *The Provincial Mediation Board Act*
- *The Tax Enforcement Act*
- *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act*
- *The Agricultural Leaseholds Act*
- *The Land Titles Act*
- *The Rural Municipality Act,* and
- The *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (Canada)

Budget: $397,000

FTEs: 5

Provincial Mediation Board
2008-09 Statistics

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Debt Repayment Files Opened	149	72	55
Files Active at Year End	589	366	260
Payments Received from Debtors for Creditors (million)	$1.6	$1.6	$1.1
Administrative Levy for Province from Debt Mediation	$256,780	$238,953	$169,312
Debtor Assistance Files (counselling only)	152	100	133
Notices of Mortgage Foreclosure/Cancellation of Agreement for Sale	700	462	428
Tax Enforcement Applications Received	707	712	544
Tax Enforcement Files in Continuous Mediation	716	591	501
Tax Enforcement Fees Received in Year	$17,800	$18,580	$16,715

The Office of Residential Tenancies provides information to landlords and tenants about residential tenancy rights and obligations. It also provides a quasi-judicial hearing forum for these landlords and tenants.

The public is invited to access the office for information. Residential landlords and tenants may use the hearing forum service to resolve disputes.

The Office of Residential Tenancies provided orders on close to 10,000 cases and held more than 6,000 hearings this past year. Its three information counsellors responded to over 30,000 inquiries. Contact was mainly through telephone inquiries. There were over a dozen presentations made to the public on residential landlord and tenant rights.

It is a priority for this office to continue to provide the public with quick access to its services. Decisions are normally rendered within 40 days of a hearing and hearings are scheduled within 40 days of application. Eviction and emergency cases are scheduled within six business days and ordered on within two days of the hearing. Inquiries are also addressed in a timely manner.

The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 was proclaimed into force March 1, 2007. There have since been constant pressures on rents and vacancy rates in the province. The legislation was reviewed in 2008-09 and legislative changes were put into place to help with these issues and to streamline the operation of the office.

The prosperity that the province is experiencing will, in many ways, affect the rental market. The Office of Residential Tenancies has to be prepared to deal with the changing market conditions. Although there will be a decrease in applications with the new amendments, the complexity of hearings has increased. There will be continuing consultation with stakeholders.

Governing legislation:

- *The Residential Tenancies Act, 2006*

Budget: $793,000

FTEs: 11.6

Office of Residential Tenancies
2008-09 Statistics

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Total Applications Received	10,960	10,654	9,811
Landlord Applications	10,294	9,844	8,947
Tenant Applications	666	810	864
Fees	$211,575	$272,245*	$269,642

* Fee charges increased

Appendix C: Revolving Funds

Queen's Printer Revolving Fund

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, the Queen's Printer publishes and distributes all legislation, regulations, and other government legislative publications, including:

- *The Saskatchewan Gazette;*
- tables to Saskatchewan Statutes and Regulations;
- The Saskatchewan *Rules of Court* (for the Court of Queen's Bench and the Court of Appeal);
- private Acts;
- bound annual statutes; and
- the complete set, as well as practice-specific sets, of the consolidated *Statutes of Saskatchewan* and *Regulations of Saskatchewan.*

Under the authority of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General and the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and subject to *The Queen's Printer's Act* and *The Queen's Printer's Fees Regulations,* the Queen's Printer operates through a revolving fund, and sells its legislative publications and services to achieve the fund's break-even mandate. Significantly self-funded, the Queen's Printer is provided an appropriation from the General Revenue Fund in order to provide free access to all current electronic publications at the Internet websites of **www.qp.gov.sk.ca** (Freelaw®) and **www.publications.gov.sk.ca** (Publications Centre).

The main users of paper and electronic publications include:

- municipal/provincial/federal governments;
- law offices;
- colleges/universities;
- industry-specific groups (e.g., associations and oil and gas companies);
- libraries; and
- business/corporate entities.

Queen's Printer Budget

	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08* Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual
Revenue	$ 580,890	$ 643,444	$ 722,751	$ 717,771	$ 692,000	$ 828,248
Expenditures:						
Cost of Goods Sold	$ 199,626	$ 236,750	$ 245,819	$ 241,273	$ 221,000	$ 267,504
Gross Profit/(Loss)	381,264	$ 406,694	476,932	476,498	471,000	560,744
Administrative Expenditures	522,840	518,147	580,509	630,647	588,000	611,027
Net Profit/(Loss)	(141,576)	(111,453)	(103,577)	(154,149)	(117,000)	(50,283)
GRF Subsidy	159,000	125,145	159,000	148,000	98,000	65,000
Net Profit/(Loss) After Subsidy	**$ 17,424**	**$ 13,692**	**$ 55,423**	**$ (6,149)**	**$ (19,000)**	**$ 14,717**

* The figures in this column are final and replace the incorrect/preliminary figures for 2007-08 that were published in the 2007-08 Ministry of Justice and Attorney General Annual Report.

2008-09 Goals and Objectives

- Begin to post edited historical legislation to Freelaw®.
- Finish private Act consolidations and editing.
- Incorporate Queen's Printer websites into new Content Management System purchased by the Government of Saskatchewan. With this, the opportunity to improve web services is available.
- Continue to market Publications Centre by attending tradeshows and sponsoring relevant industry and business events.
- Continue to promote and sponsor various related professional agencies (e.g., Financial Management Institute), by preparing materials for professional development seminars.
- Establish a schedule for loose-leaf paper services so that they are more regularly updated. A loose-leaf release is a package of statutes or regulations that Queen's Printer produces and distributes after a number of either have been amended, repealed or come into force. The format in which they are printed is loose-leaf.
- Work closely with various client groups to improve the quality of the publications services we provide.
- Continue to communicate with provincial, federal and territorial Queen's Printers to ensure that legislation and publishing services are consistent with industry and technological standards and best practices.

2008-09 Activities and Results

- Historical legislation and point-in-time is being added continuously.
- Posted summaries of Orders in Council (OC), backdated to November 2007, on Publications Centre and continue to post OC summaries on a weekly basis.
- Consolidations of all current private Acts are online.
- Freelaw® has been amalgamated into Publications Centre with the exception of the home page and subpages. The websites will continue to operate together due to client demand to retain both.
- The Queen's Printer websites have been converted to the new Content Management System.
- Continued to work co-operatively in partnership with the Ministry of Government Services and the Information Technology Office, and all participants in and outside of the provincial government, to deliver the Publications Centre, which now has 89 partner agencies, municipalities and associations.
- Queen's Printers in other provinces are in contact with Saskatchewan to obtain assistance in delivering electronic publications with common standards.
- Reduced appropriation received from the General Revenue Fund, due in part to having established a regular schedule for loose-leaf releases.
- Marketed the Publications Centre, including Freelaw®, through attendance at conferences.
- Continued promoting and sponsoring various related professional agencies (e.g., Financial Management Institute and its national event, Public Service Management Workshop) by preparing materials for professional development seminars.

Queen's Printer Subscription Statistics

Subscriptions to Publication/Service	2003-04 Actual	2004-05 Actual	2005-06 Actual	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual
Statutes of Saskatchewan Bound Volume	115	111	105	204	198	196
The Saskatchewan Gazette	375	345	325	287	273	261
Loose-leaf Statutes	270	257	245	328	320	305
Loose-leaf Regulations	102	98	90	106	103	100
Separate Chapters	65	61	58	86	53	74
Tables	205	201	186	221	211	195
Rules of Court (English/French)	235/0	232/0	229/0	417/0	361/1	359/1
Loose-leaf Oil and Gas	84	82	82	122	119	119
Loose-leaf Mining	20	20	20	25	27	27
Loose-leaf Rural Municipality	238	238	234	250	249	224
Loose-leaf Urban Municipality	319	323	315	308	308	292

Victims Services Revolving Fund

Victims Services has the primary responsibility for assisting victims involved in the criminal justice system in Saskatchewan. Victims have needs directly related to their involvement in the criminal justice system, and these needs may include:

- information on the justice system and assistance as they proceed through the criminal justice process;
- compensation to offset expenses directly resulting from violent crime; and
- an opportunity to tell the court how a crime has affected them.

Victims of reported crime who come to the attention of the justice system are the first priority of the program. Initiatives for victims of unreported crime and at-risk individuals are also considered important and are supported to the extent that resources are available. Special emphasis is placed on meeting the needs of more vulnerable individuals, such as children and persons with disabilities, as well as Aboriginal people, who are disproportionately victimized by crime.

In order to ensure basic services are available to meet the needs of victims of crime throughout Saskatchewan, Victims Services offers a range of direct programs and services, which are outlined in this report. Underlying these direct services are other initiatives that improve understanding and increase awareness of the needs of victims, and help ensure a comprehensive and co-operative response. These indirect supports include:

- education and training;
- coordination of services;
- research and evaluation initiatives; and
- prevention of victimization programming.

The governing legislation of the Victims Services program are *The Victims of Crime Act, 1995* and *The Victims of Crime Regulations, 1997*. The *Declaration of Principles Respecting the Treatment of Victims of Crime*, which is included within the Act, outlines the principles respecting the treatment of victims that are to be followed by persons working within Saskatchewan's justice system.

The Victims' Fund, which was established by this legislation, is the primary support for services for victims of crime. This is a special purpose fund that is predominantly comprised of revenue from victim surcharges that are paid by offenders on federal and provincial offences.

2008-09 Goals and Objectives

- Effectively manage the Victims' Fund by monitoring revenue and expenditures and exploring avenues to increase revenue.
- Finalize the implementation of new police-based victim services in the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment area.
- Continue working with community representatives to finalize program models and open new Children Exposed to Violence programs in La Ronge and the Buffalo Narrows area.
- Work closely with Justice Canada to facilitate their Restitution in Saskatchewan research project. Use the resulting data in planning for possible improvements to the Restitution Program, and begin the development of an automated information management system.
- Assist Justice Canada in their planning for research into the victim surcharge on federal offences in Saskatchewan, and assist in facilitating this research.
- Establish a new Victims Services Northern Program Manager position, utilizing approved federal funds.
- Continue working with the RCMP and Justice Canada to identify solutions to the issue of access to information by RCMP-based Victim Services programs.

- Work with Court Services Branch to develop a plan to facilitate testimony from outside of the courtroom for child witnesses, and access federal funding for related equipment. Provide recommendations for the inclusion of child-friendly facilities in plans for new and renovated court facilities.

- Amend *The Victims of Crime Regulations, 1997* to increase the victim surcharge on provincial offences as approved in the 2008-09 Provincial Budget, and to add new *Criminal Code* offences for which applications may be made for Victims Compensation.

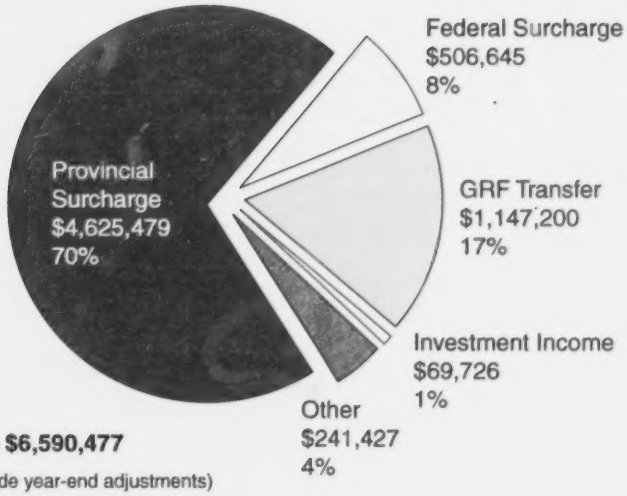
2008-09 Activities and Results

Financial Management/Administration

- Total revenue for 2008-09 was $6,590,477. This includes surcharges, surcharge receivables, GRF transfer, interest, proceeds of crime and other miscellaneous revenue. Expenditures for 2008-09 totalled $4,984,312. These figures are unaudited and do not include all year-end adjustments. The audited financial statements for the Victims' Fund will be included with the Public Accounts at July 31, 2009.

- Monitored provincial and federal victim surcharge imposition and collection, as well as investment of the Victims' Fund to maximize revenue.

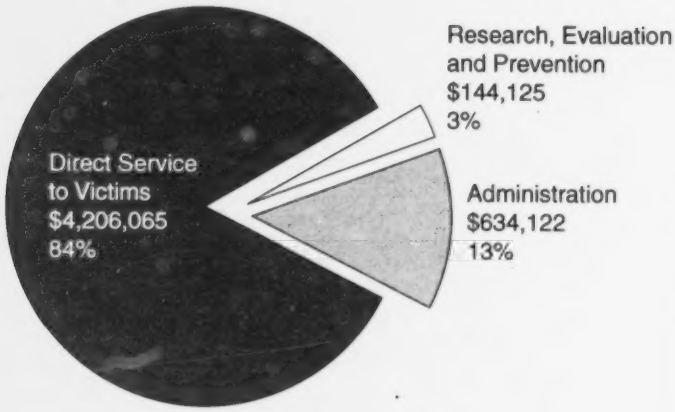
Victims Services
2008-09 Actual Revenues – Unaudited



Total Revenue – $6,590,477

(Chart does not include year-end adjustments)

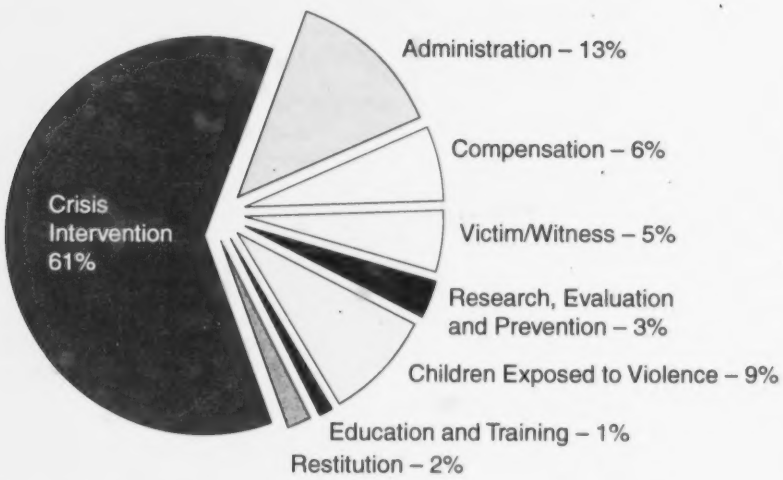
Victims Services
2008-09 Actual Expenditures – Unaudited



Total Expenditures – $4,984,312

(Chart does not include year-end adjustments)

Victims Services
2008-09 Actual Expenditures – Unaudited



(Chart does not include year-end adjustments)
(May not equal 100% due to rounding)

- In order to help ensure the stability of the Victims' Fund and the many programs and services that it supports, *The Victims of Crime Regulations, 1997* were amended to increase the victim surcharge on provincial offences, effective July 1, 2008. Where a provincial fine imposed is $500 or less, and where no fine is imposed, the surcharge now ranges from $40 to $80 (an increase of $10). Where the provincial fine imposed is greater than $500, the surcharge was increased from 30 per cent of the fine to 40 per cent.

- Accessed federal project funding for the Northern Program Manager project, and for the Domestic Violence Victim Caseworker project as part of the Regina Domestic Violence Court.

- Hired a Victim Services Coordinator on contract to work part-time as a temporary Northern Program Manager, to assist with the implementation of the new programs in Sandy Bay and Stony Rapids/Black Lake.

- Conducted financial audits of funded programs, worked with specific programs to resolve management and financial issues, and trained program staff on financial management software to enable them to have the knowledge to assume responsibility for their finances in the future.

- Administered federal proceeds of crime (POC) monies that were deposited into the Victims' Fund, with payment of these funds to police agencies as designated for anti-organized crime and crime prevention activities. Maintained provincial POC monies in the Victims' Fund; obtained approval for and implemented a multi-year plan for the expenditure of these monies on specific programs for victims of crime.

Victims Services Staffing

Total FTE Establishment	
Administration	6.5
Compensation	2
Restitution	3
Victim/Witness Support	4.5
Training & Interpersonal Violence Manager	1
Total FTEs	**17**

Police-based Victim Services

- Managed funding agreements with 18 community agencies and municipal police services to ensure that services are available to 87 per cent of Saskatchewan's population. This includes 18 Police-based Victim Services programs, and six Aboriginal Resource Officer programs that are part of the local Victim Services teams.

- Finalized expansion of Prince Albert Regional Victim Services Inc. to the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment area, with service delivery in this area beginning in late 2008.

Specialized Victim Services

- Provided funding for seven specialized victim services programs in urban centres, where client volume and/or unique needs require a different delivery model to meet demands. This includes programs for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, including services associated with domestic violence courts in the Battlefords, Saskatoon and Regina.

Aboriginal Initiatives

- Effectively administered funding for six Aboriginal Family Violence programs and six Aboriginal Resource Officer programs.

Children Exposed to Violence Programming

- Managed ongoing funding for seven Children Exposed to Violence programs (previously referred to as Children Who Witness Violence programs). Worked with communities to finalize models for two new programs in La Ronge and the Buffalo Narrows area, and provided funding to agencies in both communities. A coordinator was hired in the Buffalo Narrows program, and staff recruitment was initiated in La Ronge.

Prevention of Victimization Programming

- Managed ongoing funding for the Street Workers Advocacy Program in Regina, and provided financial support for four projects funded through the prevention and support grants.

Victim/Witness Services

- Continued to offer court orientation and support to children and other vulnerable witnesses who are required to testify in court. Services are provided province-wide by four programs located in regional prosecutions' offices.
- Conducted a consultation by Victim/Witness staff and management with representatives of the Traditional Elders Ministerial Advisory Committee about witness intimidation. Received guidance from the Elders on strategies that can be used by Victim/Witness staff to assist clients.
- Worked with Court Services Branch to develop a plan, to be implemented in 2009-10, to facilitate the testimony by children and other vulnerable witnesses from outside of courtrooms.
- Participated on facility planning committees to provide recommendations for the inclusion of child-friendly features in plans for new courthouses in Meadow Lake and La Ronge, renovations to existing courthouses in Saskatoon and Weyburn, as well as in plans for a temporary facility in Weyburn.

Victims Compensation Program

- Provided compensation totalling $315,358 to 372 victims, to reimburse them for actual expenses resulting from crimes of personal violence.
- Amended *The Victims of Crime Regulations, 1997* to update the list of criminal offences for which victims of crime may apply for compensation. The amendment added to this list two new impaired driving-related offences that were created in the *Criminal Code of Canada*, effective July 2, 2008.

Victim/Witness Statistics*

	Males			Females			Total		
Year	**2006-07**	**2007-08**	**2008-09**	**2006-07**	**2007-08**	**2008-09**	**2006-07**	**2007-08**	**2008-09**
Children	60	46	50	82	75	74	142	121	124
Teens	85	92	93	186	189	169	271	281	262
Adults	101	49	71	329	239	273	430	288	344
Total	**246**	**187**	**214**	**597**	**503**	**516**	**843**	**690**	**730**

* Number of new clients in fiscal year

Victims Compensation Statistics

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Applications Received	354	418	401	404
Applications Approved	323	380	373	372
Applications Denied	31	38	28	32
Total Amount Awarded	$310,034	$397,108	$355,821	$315,358
Average Award	$960	$1,045	$954	$848

Adult Restitution Program

- Monitored and helped to enforce court-ordered restitution for adult offenders, advised victims of available civil enforcement measures and the registration process, and conducted training for criminal justice system professionals. The program monitored 801 new restitution files in 2008-09, either directly through the Restitution Coordinator or in conjunction with Probation Services.

Education and Training

- In response to a request from the Children Exposed to Violence (CEV) programs, provided funding to a community agency for the development of a training manual and the delivery of 10 sessions throughout the province in 2008-09. This training regarding CEV is directed to front-line professionals who work with children and youth.

- Assisted SIAST Wascana Campus in conducting the third and fourth courses of the standardized basic training program for Police-based Victim Services program service-delivery staff. Victims Services continued to provide input to SIAST for their consideration of this course for approval as an applied certificate program.

- Implemented the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) certification training and follow-up support for police-based and specialized domestic violence victim services program personnel. Planned for provincial training roll-out and facilitated one training session for victim services personnel. Also partnered with the Ministry of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing in providing provincial oversight for ODARA quality assurance activities.

- Provided six board governance training sessions to boards and staff of non-profit agencies delivering police-based victim services. The sessions focused on board roles and core responsibilities related to policy governance, operational oversight and leadership.

- Delivered three multi-disciplinary training sessions on the Justice Response to Domestic Violence to RCMP members and community agency staff.

- Delivered presentations on the needs of victims and available programs and supports to Victims Services funded agencies, various groups of criminal justice system personnel including police recruits at the Saskatchewan Police College and the RCMP Academy, and at conferences and workshops.

- Coordinated Saskatchewan's activities during the 2008 National Victims of Crime Awareness Week to raise awareness of the needs of victims, inform the public about services that are available, and recognize the nearly 300 volunteers who assisted in providing services to victims of crime. Special recognition was given to 10- and 15-year volunteers. Planning began for the next annual week to be held in April 2009.

- Distributed over 20,000 copies of brochures, posters, fact sheets, bookmarks and other educational material to government offices, criminal justice system and community agencies, and individuals.

Coordination

- Provided financial support for the Saskatchewan Association of Police Affiliated Victim Services Inc.'s (SAPAVS) annual general meeting and training conference.

- Met regularly with RCMP "F" Division Community Services and the Chair of SAPAVS to discuss and address issues of mutual concern.

- Continued to work with RCMP (national headquarters and "F" Division) and Justice Canada on the development of processes to address privacy concerns, and to ensure that victims continue to be referred to local victim services programs.

- Participated in inter-ministry committees on interpersonal violence and abuse.

- Represented Saskatchewan at two meetings of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Working Group on Victims Issues. The Ministry co-chaired the Sub-committee on Aboriginal Victimization.

- Participated in the first meeting of the Restitution Working Group established by Justice Canada.

Research and Evaluation

- Supported two Justice Canada research projects conducted in Saskatchewan: research into federal victim surcharge practices; and the Restitution in Saskatchewan research project. Contributed to the development of the research plans, and assisted with the research by facilitating assistance and input from numerous Justice branches and staff. Justice Canada's research and reports are expected to be completed in early 2009-10.

- Collected and monitored regular qualitative and quantitative reporting from all funded agencies.

- Supported the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch in the administration of an ongoing evaluation of Police-based Victim Services client satisfaction.

Appendix D: Key Contact Information

Access and Privacy
1020 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-5473 Fax: (306) 798-4064
Email: accessprivacyjustice@gov.sk.ca

Aboriginal Courtworker Program
600 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-6467 Fax: (306) 787-0078
National Website: www.courtworker.com

Automobile Injury Appeal Commission
2101 Scarth Street, Room 100
Regina SK S4P 2H9
Phone: (306) 798-5545 Fax: (306) 798-5540
Toll-free: 1-866-798-5544

Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public
1010 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-4117 Fax: (306) 787-8737

Consumer Protection Branch
1919 Saskatchewan Drive, Suite 500
Regina, SK S4P 4H2
Phone: (306) 787-5550 Fax: (306) 787-9779
Toll-free: 1-877-880-5550 (Saskatchewan only)

Corporations Branch
1871 Scarth Street, 2nd Floor
Regina, SK S4P 4W5
Phone: (306) 787-2962 Fax: (306) 787-8999
Email: corporationsjustice@gov.sk.ca

Dispute Resolution Office
3085 Albert Street, 3rd Floor
Regina, SK S4S 0B1
Phone: (306) 787-5747 Fax: (306) 787-0088
Email: disputeresolutionjustice@gov.sk.ca

Family Justice Services Branch
3085 Albert Street, Room 100
Regina, SK S4S 0B1
Phone: (306) 787-8961 Fax: (306) 787-1420
Toll-free: 1-866-229-9712 (outside of Regina area)
Email: meoinquiry@gov.sk.ca

Family Law Information Centre
Phone: (306) 787-5837 Fax: (306) 787-0107
Toll-free: 1-888-218-2822 (Saskatchewan only)

Human Rights Commission
Suite 816, Sturdy Stone Building
122 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6
Phone: (306) 933-5952 Fax: (306) 933-7863
Telewriter: 306-373-2119
Toll-free: 1-800-667-9249 (Saskatchewan only)

Legal Aid Saskatchewan
502 - 201 21st Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6
Phone: (306) 933-5300 Fax: (306) 933-6764
Toll-free: 1-800-667-3764
Email: central@legalaid.sk.ca

Office of Residential Tenancies
Toll-free Numbers (Saskatchewan only):
Phone: 1-888-215-2222
Fax: 1-888-867-7776

Regina Office
120 - 2151 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 2H8
Phone: (306) 787-2699 Fax: (306) 787-5574

A drop box is located at the front door

Saskatoon Office
Main Floor, Sturdy Stone Building
122 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6
Phone: (306) 933-5680 Fax: (306) 933-7030

A drop box is located outside the office
on the 22nd Street side

Provincial Mediation Board
Toll-free Numbers (Saskatchewan only):
Phone: 1-888-215-2222
Fax: 1-888-867-7776

Regina Office
120 - 2151 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 2H8

Debt Management and Credit Counselling Inquiry:
Phone: (306) 787-5387 Fax: (306) 787-5574

Saskatoon Office
Main Floor, Sturdy Stone Building
122 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2H6

Debt Management and Credit Counselling Inquiry:
Phone: (306) 933-6520 Fax: (306) 933-7030

Public Guardian and Trustee
100 - 1871 Smith Street
Regina, SK S4P 4W4
Phone: (306) 787-5424 Fax: 787-5065
Toll-free: 1-877-787-5424
Email: pgt@gov.sk.ca

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Closed for the noon hour and holidays)

Victims Services Branch
610 - 1874 Scarth Street
Regina, SK S4P 4B3
Phone: (306) 787-3500 Fax: (306) 787-0081
Toll-free: 1-888-286-6664
TTY Phone Number: 1-866-445-8857